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WACHTER,THEMANOFAGADIR

Government will only proceed to military occupation in the event of extreme necessity. In that case the German Government would be quite ready to exchange views on the steps to be taken." Here was the second warning. A third came from the Chancellor a few days later. On April 28 Cambon announced that bad news had arrived from Fez, and that France must take measures to rescue the Europeans. There was no intention of occupying the capital or infringing the sovereignty of the Sultan. Kiderlen rejoined that he had full confidence in the sincerity of the French Government, but events sometimes produced unintended results, "If the French troops remained in Fez, so that the Sultan only ruled with the aid of French bayonets, Germany would regard the Algedras Act as finished and would resume complete liberty of action." Here was the fourth warning.

How seriously Kiderlen took the matter was shown in his elaborate Memorandum dated May 3. "The occupation of Fez would prepare the way for the absorption of Morocco by France. We should obtain nothing by protests, and should suffer a moral defeat which it would be hard to bear. We must therefore decide on an object in the coming negotiations which would incline the French to compensations. If they establish themselves in Fez out of anxiety for their nationals, we too have the right to defend our own. We have large German firms in Mogador and Agadir. German ships could go to these ports for the protection of these firms. They could be stationed there quite peacefully, just to prevent other Powers occupying these most important ports in south Morocco first. In view of their remoteness from the Mediterranean England would scarcely make difficulties." Here was the new course—to take pledges and await a

French offer.
There was no thought, or at any rate no
mention of occupation
of territory. The Memorandum was approved by
the Kaiser,
who, during a visit to England, assured the
King that Ger-
many would never fight for Morocco. He
desired the open
door and hoped for colonial compensation.

On May 21, undeterred by reiterated
warnings, French
troops entered Fez where they found the
Europeans safe and
well. Grey confessed that the French were
skating on very
thin ice in maintaining that the Act of Algeciras
remained
intact, and on June 8 Spain manifested her
interpretation of
French policy by occupying the zone in
northern Morocco
hypothetically allotted to her by the secret
treaty of 1904.